

9483.

From Johannesburg, Transvaal. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1108, February 18, 1903), March 24, 1903.

"An undetermined species of the sunflower family which, according to Mr. R. W. Odum, superintendent of the Municipal Garden at Johannesburg, bears very pretty pale-yellow flowers and is worthy of being brought into cultivation. These seeds were collected by him on the high veld for the purpose of planting in his garden. They should be sown immediately upon arrival." (*Fairchild.*)

9484. GERBERA JAMESONI.**Barborton or Transvaal daisy.**

From Johannesburg, Transvaal. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1106, February 18, 1903), March 24, 1903.

"This showy perennial is half hardy and can be grown in the open in California and the Southwest but will probably succeed as a potted plant, if set out in the summer time, even as far north as Chicago. Its flowers, which are daisy-like in shape and very large, are of a beautiful scarlet color. They are not borne in great abundance but are nevertheless very showy. The foliage, resembling slightly that of the dandelion in shape, is a deep, dark green, and the flower scapes, which rise out of a dense mass of it, are long and slender. The flower is a brilliant, attractive thing and well worthy of attention. The seeds are very short lived and should be planted at once in rich, sandy potting soil. Should germinate in ten to twelve days. The plants require plenty of water and sunshine." (*Fairchild.*)

9485. ANANAS SATIVUS.**Pineapple.**

From Durban, Natal. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1109, February 19, 1903), March 30, 1903.

Natal. "Sets taken from the tops of two most delicious pineapples of the common cultivated variety of Natal. More sets would be sent were it not for a disease which is prevalent among the Natal pines and which we fear to introduce into America. This disease is said to be fungous in character and to be caused by a species of *Mucor* which gets into the fruit through places attacked by a red mite. These two plants should be watched closely and the sets carefully examined before planting, for although they came from perfectly sound fruit they may harbor this *Mucor*. The Natal pineapple is a small sort of most unusual uniformity of flavor and texture and surpasses in sweetness, crispness, and freedom from fiber or seeds any other pineapple which we have ever eaten. Its small, convenient size and tenderness of flesh suit it better than any variety we have ever seen for general table use, and its excellent shipping qualities must recommend it to American growers. It has scarcely any core, and from the standpoint of the consumer it is a great pineapple. It is said to thrive with very little attention in Natal." (*Fairchild.*)

9486. MANGIFERA INDICA.**Mango.**

From Beira, Portuguese East Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1091, January 28, 1903), April 2, 1903.

Lathrop. "The single fruit from which one of these two seeds came, and from which the following description is made, was the only one obtainable during our short stop in Beira. It was $15\frac{3}{4}$ inches in largest circumference and of a peculiar, characteristic shape; being in outline (seen from the stem end) very broadly elliptical (14 inches in circumference at base) while, seen in profile, it was heart shaped with a decided oblique tendency. It resembled in shape a Sour Sop and was nearly as large as a medium-sized specimen of this species of *Anona*. The skin was, when ripe, a light golden yellow and of a peculiar texture, not common to other varieties of mangoes that I have seen. It was not quite smooth but suggested the roughness of a pomelo skin. It was about one-eighth inch thick and quite tough, and on the inside it was lined with a number of long, strong fibers which did not penetrate into the flesh but adhered closely to the skin. The flesh, from this skin quite down to the short fibers attached to the seed, was entirely devoid of stringiness of any kind and had the texture of a firm custard and was of a deep golden color. In aroma it lacked very little of being as pronounced and agreeable as that of the best *Alphonse* variety of Bombay and its flesh had the indescribably rich flavor which characterizes the best varieties of this tropical fruit. The seed was small ($3\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$) in